THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b): For the 8th Five Year Plan period 1992-93 to 1996-97 108 new coal mining projects including a few Ninth Plan starts have been identified for development. Working Group on coal and lignite has projected an outlay of 5998.28 crores for new projects of 8th Five Year Plan and 9th Plan new starts. Allocation made for these projects for 8th Plan period is Rs. 1946 crores (at 1991-92 prices). Fund constraints are being experienced in taking up new projects which have been formulated and are waiting for Govt. approval. Many of the projects are yet to be scrutinised from techno-economic angle.

(c) and (d) With a view to improving efficiency and financial viability and for achieving self-reliance, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) have a plan of action. For implementation of various measures identified in action Plan, CIL have submitted a proposal seeking the World Bank assistance of US $ 500 million (Rs. 1500 crores approx.). On availability of the credit, CIL intends to utilise this for implementing schemes to meet the overall corporate objective of financial viability. Proposal has been submitted to the World Bank.

Open coal fields working in the country

3549. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how many open coalfields are working in the country;

(b) how many of them are runing on profit;

(c) whether production in such coalfields is costlier than that of deep mines; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The number of open cast coal mines in Coal India Limited (CIL) is 118. In adition there are 66 mines having both Underground|Opencast units. The nuber of opencat coal mines working in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) are 8..

(b) There were 164 cost centres in OC mines in CIL, of which 113 were running on profit (provisional) during 1992-93. Out of 8 opencast mines, 5 were running in profit in SCCL.

(c) and (d) Generally cost of opencast mining in less than the cost of underground mining (deep mining).

Stagnant production of Coal

3550. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal production in the country has remained stagnant;

(b) what was the rate of increase or decrease of coal production in 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(c) what were the respective target for above years;

(d) what steps are proposed to modernise coal-mining operations keeping in view the health and safety of miners; and

(e) whether it is fact that managements of coal mines are paying very little attention to the working conditions in coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c) The total coal production in 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are given below:

Production

(*Million tonnes*)

Year	Target	Actual	Increase over previous year
1990-91	221.00	211.73	5.40%
1991-92	228.00	229.28	8.29%
1992-93	238.20	238.23	3.90%

(d) New mining technologies introduced|being introduced for extraaction of coal include adequate provision for safety and health of the mine workers. The coal companies are also required to strictly adhere to the safety regulations in all the mining operations. In some of the deep and gassy underground mines telemonitoring equipment for constant monitoring of underground environmental conditions like temperature, humidity etc. have been introduced. Adequate provision for ensuring safety and health of workers are also made in the opencast-mines.

(e) No, Sir.

ढोरी परियोजना में कोयले में मिट्टी और पत्थरों का मिलाया जाना

3551. **श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान:** क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की सहायक कम्पनी सेन्ट्रल कोलफील्डस लिमिटेड के अन्तर्गत आने वाली ढोरी परियोजना के अधिकारियों द्वारा कोयले में मिट्टी और पत्थर मिला कर उसका वजन बढ़ाया जाता है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन भ्रष्ट अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार अखबारों में छपी शिकायतों पर कोई ध्यान नहीं देती है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांजा) : (क) कोल इंडिया लि० ने इस बात से इंकार किया है कि सेन्ट्रल कोलफील्डस लि० की ढोरी परियोजना में कोयले का भार बढ़ाने के लिये कोयले के साथ मिट्टी/पत्थर मिलाये जा रहे हैं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

(ग) समाचार-पत्रों में प्रकाशित शिकायतों सहित सभी विशिष्ट शिकायतों पर ध्यान दिया जाता है और प्रत्येक मामले में उसकी गुणवत्ता के आधार पर उचित कार्रवाई की जाती है । कोयला कम्पनियों ने कोयला उपभोक्ता परिषदों का भी गठन किया है जो कि उपभोक्ताओं की शिकायतों को दूर करने पर निगरानी रखती है ।

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड में 60 वर्षीय विमान चालक

3552. **श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान** : क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड में 60 वर्ष की आयु के कितने विमान चालक हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;